

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/828,813

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Applicant(s)

BRUCK ET AL.

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Response filed on 10/19/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-30 (renumbered as 1-29 respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

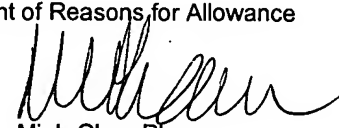
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 1724

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 and 3-30 allowed.

The closest relevant arts are Breuer et al (5,322,672), Wickland (6,355,078 B1), and Li (6,413,589 B1).

Breuer et al discloses a honeycomb filter for a diesel internal combustion engine having layers of metal foil sheets forming a stack with a plurality of channels through which a fluid can flow, wherein the metal sheets have a thickness of about 0.03 to 0.12 mm or about 0.03 to 0.06 mm (Abstract, col. 2, lines 33-35 and lines 58-60), and the covering layers are brazed (col. 3, lines 62-65).

Wickland discloses a filter assembly through which a fluid can flow comprising at least one filter layer (52), at least one covering layer (46, 48) formed from at least partially porous material (60, 62), and at least one covering layer (46, 48) having at least one boundary region forming a sleeve surrounding the filter layer and captively holding at least one filter layer inside at least one covering layer (see Fig. 3), and the covering layer being connected to itself by technical joining in at least one boundary region (Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 10-19 and lines 31-42). Wickland also discloses a process for producing a filter assembly through which a fluid can flow comprising the steps of providing at least one covering layer (46, 48) having at least one boundary region formed with porosity (60, 62), placing one filter layer (52) on the at least one covering layer, forming a sleeve with the at least one covering layer surrounding the at least one filter layer, and forming a connection by technical joining at the at least one boundary region, captively

Art Unit: 1724

fixing the at least filter layer within the at least one covering layer (Fig. 3, col. 3, lines 10-19 and lines 31-42).

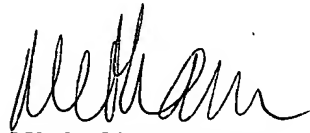
Li discloses a method of coating a ceramic honeycomb and bonding ceramic onto a substrate which is elongated reinforced fibers or sheets (col. 12, line 26) for practical uses over 630 degrees C (Abstract, col. 1, lines 60-62, col. 5, lines 49-52, col. 6, lines 31-42).

Claims 1 and 3-30 of this instant patent application differ from the disclosure of Breuer et al (5,322,672), Wickland (6,355,078 B1), and Li (6,413,589 B1) in that a heat resistant filter has at least one boundary region extending from the filter section, the boundary region has a first layer thickness being less than a second layer thickness of the filter section, and the boundary region contains a compressed or compacted fiber assembly.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner
Art Unit: 1724
December 19, 2006